

America's Hope Monthly

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Destruction From the Almighty

By C.O. Stadsklev

The great prophet Isaiah saw by vision our day. In chapter 13, verses 6 through 13, Isaiah was inspired to write the following:

"Howl ye; for the day of the Lord is at hand; it shall come as a destruction from the Almighty. Therefore shall all hands be faint, and every man's heart shall melt: And they shall be afraid: pangs and sorrows shall take hold of them; they shall be in pain as a woman that travaileth: they shall be amazed one at another; their faces shall be as flames. Behold, the day of the Lord cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate; and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it. For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light; the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine. And I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; and I will cause the arrogancy of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible. I will make a man more precious than fine gold; even a man than the golden wedge of Ophir. Therefore I will shake the heavens, and the earth shall remove out of her place, in the wrath of the Lord of hosts, and in the day of his fierce anger."

You will find practically the same words used by the prophet Zephaniah, as he describes our day in chapter I, verses 14 through 18.

The apostle Paul, in foretelling our day, deals largely with the evils and the perplexities which would confront the individual, while the Old Testament prophets dealt largely with the evils and difficulties that would confront the nations of the earth, and especially the Israel race now known as the Anglo-Saxons.

In Second Timothy 3, verses 1 through 10 the apostle Paul was inspired to write the following, and every adult must realize that the "last days" with the perils and evils which Paul said would come are now upon us: "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false

accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away."

The clergy of today have taken two extreme positions relative to Bible prophecy, with, of course, a few exceptions. The vast majority of professional clergymen pay little or no attention to Bible prophecy. They almost consider it sacrilegious to study, preach and teach Bible prophecy. And this in spite of the fact that both the Old and the New Scriptures make it abundantly clear that Bible prophecy was written and preserved primarily for us who would be living today in history's greatest crisis.

A much smaller group of clergymen are attempting to expound Bible prophecy without realizing and acknowledging the fact the Anglo-Saxons are the Israel people of the Bible. Hence, what they have been teaching as Bible prophecy for the last thirty or forty years has fallen to the ground, and therefore a great host of people have lost interest in Bible prophecy.

This latter group can hold forth no light and no hope from the Scriptures for our own nation or any of the other Anglo-Saxon nations. Their teaching that God will abandon the earth, including the Christian nations, to some great antichrist for a period of three and a half years—and some teach seven years—is utterly unscriptural. And it has left the clergy and the people with nothing but a message of total doom and destruction for everyone except the handful who insist they will be raptured before the tribulation begins. The fact of the matter is, we are now in the final phase of the great judgment of the nations and the Church is still here.

As for the Holy Spirit leaving the earth, Isaiah in the 59th chapter clearly describes our day, and in verse 19 we read: "So shall they (the Anglo-Saxon people) fear the name of the LORD from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy (the Reds) shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him." This does not sound like the Spirit of God is going to abandon the earth!

Referring to the ever presence of our living Lord, the apostle Paul while preaching at Athens said, as recorded in Acts 17:28, "For in him we live, and move, and have our being." In Psalm 104:30, 31 we read, "Thou sendest forth thy spirit, they are created: thou renewest the face of the earth. The glory of the Lord shall endure forever: the Lord shall rejoice in his works."

The one great truth that the nations of the earth must now be made to understand and act upon is the great, eternal truth that was revealed to King Nebuchadnezzar and stated by the prophet Daniel. This truth is stated three times in the fourth chapter of Daniel. We shall read it as recorded in the 17th verse: "This matter is by the decree of the watchers, and the demand by the word of the holy ones: to the intent that the living may know that the Most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men."

The absurd and unscriptural teaching that the Bible contains no definite national message for today, and that the Lord is only interested in the individual and in the Church has done more to confuse and darken the minds of this generation than the so-called spiritual groups of today have any idea. It has canceled out whole books and chapters in the Bible, written especially for us today; and besides it has left our civil and national leaders without chart or compass.

There is no standard of what is right and wrong for a nation to do. Our leaders are unaware that they are responsible before God Almighty for failure to administer His national laws and that the Christian nations are about to witness and experience the most terrible punishment and destruction in their entire history for the failure to honor and observe the national laws of the Bible.

As every other born again believer I have a sincere respect and appreciation for every evangelist, gospel preacher, and teacher of this and every other age. But for God's sake, and for the sake of our own nation and race, we must now realize that the personal salvation of a few thousand or many hundred thousand individual souls will not pacify nor satisfy Almighty God.

The only thing that will now, at the close of the Church Age and the soon ushering in of the Kingdom Age, pacify God and bring His blessing upon us as Christian nations is for every knee in Anglo-Saxondom to bow and for every tongue in Anglo-Saxondom to confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.

History, including our own national history, shows that there is no group of men to whom western or Christian civilization owes more than the rugged, faithful gospel preachers and Bible teachers throughout Church history. But, a new day is dawning. The will of God must now be done on earth as it is in heaven. Therefore, as Jesus said, "This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations, and then shall the end come."

The idea that the only demands that God is making is that a large number of people individually receive the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Savior is definitely unscriptural.

Often Christian workers read or quote Second Chronicles 7:14 and apply it to the Christians or the Church. This passage does not apply to the Church. Today, as in every other time of national judgment, if the nation refuses to humble itself, seek God's face and turn from its wicked ways, there is nothing the Church of Christ can do but to prepare itself to suffer with the rest of the nation. Second Chronicles 7:14 contains the following promise addressed not to the Church but very clearly and definitely to the Anglo-Saxon people, formerly called the Israel people, or as in this passage "my people": "If my people, which are called by my name (that means called by the name of Christian nations) shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways: then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

With all due respect to every church revival and all evangelistic work, a few hundred thousand people—or millions of people, receiving Jesus Christ as their personal Savior falls far short of the demands and the conditions laid down by Almighty God in this particular oft quoted passage.

The only possible way we as a people can humble ourselves before God and turn from our wicked ways is to recognize, honor and observe God's national laws.

Do not think that I am preaching personal salvation through the law, I am not. But I am insisting that the grace of God is not a license to violate the national and moral laws of God as given in the Old Scriptures.

In Romans 8:3, 4 the apostle Paul makes the following statement: "For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh (that is, our human flesh is weak) God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin (or by a sacrifice for sin), condemned sin in the flesh: that the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."

In Romans 7:14 the apostle Paul wrote, "for we know that the law is spiritual," and in Romans 3:20 he wrote, "by the law is the knowledge of sin." This generation cannot be made to realize wherein they have sinned, nor what constitutes sin unless they hear and have expounded unto them the moral and national laws of God. In Romans 7:7 the apostle Paul wrote the following: "What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet."

For instance, how many people in Christendom today realize that one reason for our dire predicament is because of the way we as a nation observe Sunday?

In Exodus 31:12-17 we read the following: "And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, Speak thou also unto the children of Israel, saying, Verily my sabbaths ye shall keep: for it is a sign between me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that I am the Lord that doth sanctify you. Ye shall keep the sabbath therefore; for it is holy unto you: every one that defileth it shall surely be put to death: for whosoever doeth any work therein, that soul shall be cut off from among his people. Six days may work be

done; but in the seventh is the sabbath of rest, holy to the Lord: whosoever doeth any work in the sabbath day, he shall surely be put to death. Wherefore the children of Israel shall keep the sabbath, to observe the sabbath throughout their generations, for a perpetual covenant. It is a sign between me and the children of Israel for ever: for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested, and was refreshed."

Let us not get into useless argument as to whether we should keep Saturday or Sunday. We have lost track of years, so why argue about days! I am of the opinion that our present Sunday is the sabbath formerly observed.

In Romans 14: 5 Paul says, "Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind." Do not make sabbath keeping a basis for your salvation; keep it as an expression of your reverence and regard for the Word and will of God, and for your own physical, mental and spiritual well-being.

We have now come to the time when the portion of Scripture we read from Exodus 31, verses 12 through 17 will be literally fulfilled. We of Anglo-Saxondom will individually and nationally observe God's law of one day of rest and worship out of every seven.

Notice that in verses 13 and 17 we are told that the sabbath is to be a sign "between me (God) and the children of Israel forever." In other words, one purpose of the sabbath is that God wanted to give us something whereby we could express to Him our reverence and respect for His Word and our appreciation for His many national blessings. On the other hand, our present method of observing Sunday is also a sign. It is a sign to God, to ourselves, and to the heathen world that we as a nation have no reverence for God.

We have chosen to defy and insult God. We have as a nation no appreciation for the great blessings God has bestowed upon us as a people. In other words, the way this nation is observing Sunday is a sign that we have forgotten and forsaken our God, and now God is about to teach us a lesson that we will clearly remember for at least one thousand years.

To you who think the law of God is not practical for us today I would say that before the present controversy between God and the nations is over every lasting one of us is going to be made to realize that the national laws of God are practical and just as binding today as they were in the days of Moses and David.

The words of the Lord recorded in Matthew 13:5 were never more true than they are today: "I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish."

"Ye shall observe to do therefore as the Lord your God hath commanded you: ye shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left" (Deuteronomy 5:32)

The Bible is Vital to America's Survival

The Bible is not read in the schools of Communist Russia or of Red China. One would not expect that it would be, for the Bible was not a vital factor in the formation of these powers. They came into being by forces that were antagonistic to the Word of God.

The Bible played a real part, however, in the shaping of Western civilization. The America we know and love could never have had its being without it. Because of it our forefathers left the shores of their native lands and came to America in quest of religious freedom, the right to worship God according to the dictates of their own consciences. It has had a part in shaping practically every facet of American life. Because of it our legislative halls are opened daily with prayer. Because of it our cities, villages and countryside are dotted with churches. Because of it most of our states recognize God in their constitutions. Because of it most of our states have laws giving some protection to the Sabbath. It has played a real part in the development of our schools and colleges for the education of our youth.

The Bible having played such a leading part in the shaping of America, it is strange that there are those who feel their children may be injured by hearing a few verses from it read without comment in the public schools. Strange it is that here in the America the Bible had such a great part in shaping, children are not permitted to bow their heads in silent grace in some school cafeterias. Strange it is that some of our states do not regard textbooks suitable for use in the public schools if they so much as mention God, or speak of religion or morality. Strange it is Christmas programs which make any reference to Jesus Christ are taboo in some of our public schools.

The great anchor which strengthened America in her beginning and gave her stability throughout her history was the Bible. But today America is cutting her anchor chains one by one and casting them overboard. Practices which have been regarded as distinctively American since the days of the founding fathers have suddenly in our day become unconstitutional, a violation of constitutional rights, an infringement of religious liberty, as a threat to the separation of church and state.

If the America we know and love could not have had its being without the Bible, can the America we know and love survive without the Bible?

—Selected from The Christian Statesman

"God who gave us life gave us liberty. Can the liberties of a nation be secure when we have removed a conviction that these liberties are the gift of God? Indeed I tremble for my country when I reflect God is just, that his justice cannot sleep forever."

—Thomas Jefferson

Distinct and Separate

By C. O. Stadsklev

Church and state are two distinct and separate institutions. While they were both ordained of God and are responsible to God, they must be kept distinct and separate. The one carries the Word of God; the other the sword. See Romans 13:4. Neither institution should infringe or assume to perform the ministry of the other. When and where the Word is rejected, the ministry of the sword takes over. While neither George Washington nor Abraham Lincoln were prophets, in a scriptural sense, they both warned us about future dangers.

Washington warned us about foreign entanglements and a two party political system. We have heeded neither. Our foreign entanglements caused two World Wars and made Communism what it is today. Our two party political system has made it simple and easy for the hidden money powers to control and use both parties and bar free and independent individuals from an opportunity to be heard. The money powers ride one horse or party until there arises a protest. Then they shift horses or parties, but go down the same road, tightening the rule of money. The vision of the future of his nation, Washington is reported to have had, seems to be authentic. It is in harmony with Bible prophecy.

Lincoln's concern and fear for the future of his nation is in a personal letter he wrote on November 21, 1864 to William P. Elkin, wherein he wrote the following: "We may all congratulate ourselves that this cruel war is nearing its close. It has cost a vast amount of treasure and blood. The best blood of the flower of American youth has been freely offered upon our country's altar that the Nation might live. It has been indeed a trying hour for the Republic, but I see in the near future, a crisis approaching that unnerves me and causes me to tremble for the safety of my country.

"As a result of the war, corporations have been enthroned and an era of corruption in high places will follow, and the money power of the country will endeavor to prolong its reign by working upon the prejudices of the people until all wealth is aggregated in a few hands, and the Republic is destroyed. I feel at this moment more anxiety for the safety of my country than ever before, even in the midst of war. God grant that my suspicions may prove groundless." Compare Lincoln's prediction with a prophecy of Moses in Deuteronomy. There Moses prophesied that if we the Israel people, now the Anglo-Saxons and similar people, did not honor and observe God's order for human government, foreigners would be permitted, by God, to place upon us an iron yoke. This foreigners would do by lending us our own money. Thus the money creators, using inflation, deflation, tight money and high interest rates, would get up very high and we would come down very low. And "he shall be the head, and thou shalt be the tail." Lincoln saw this developing in his time, and saw it as a greater danger than the civil war.

CHRIST—the Preacher's Theme.

The pulpit is intended to be a pedestal for the cross, though, alas! even the cross itself; it is to be feared, is sometimes used as a mere pedestal for the preacher's fame. We may roll the thunders of eloquence, we may dart the coruscations of genius, we may scatter the flowers of poetry, we may diffuse the light of science, we may enforce the precepts of morality, from the pulpit; but if we do not make Christ the great subject of our preaching, we have forgotten our errand, and shall do no good. Satan trembles at nothing but the cross: at this he does tremble; and if we would destroy his power, and extend that holy and benevolent kingdom, which is righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost, it must be by means of the CROSS.

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